



SIERRA CLUB
CALIFORNIA

Sierra Club Shasta Group Newsletter

February 2026

Upcoming Event on Feb. 4th at 6pm!

A Panel Presentation
Sáttitla Highlands National Monument
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 6PM
SHASTA COLLEGE, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES BLDG,
ROOM 1632

Presented by the Shasta Group of Sierra Club and the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

Discover NorCal's newest monument!
Representatives from the Pit River Nation and
the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
will share the story of the monument, its
ecological and Indigenous cultural significance,
and plans for the region's first co-stewardship
agreement



Meet the Speakers:

Brandy McDaniels
Sáttitla Highlands National Monument Lead,
Pit River Nation

Michelle Berditschewsky
Director, Sáttitla/Medicine Lake Highlands
and Aquifer Protection Project and Founder,
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center

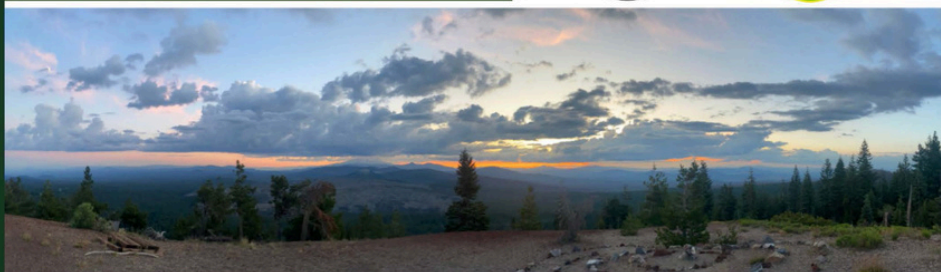
Nick Joslin, Geologist
Policy and Advocacy Director,
Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center
>Will talk about the geologic setting and the
volcanic history of Medicine Lake Volcano.



SIERRA CLUB
MOTHER LODE
SHASTA GROUP



RETURNING
TO
NATURE



More Info:

sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com

<https://mountshastaecology.org>

Upcoming Event on Feb. 4th at 6pm!

The Shasta Group of the Sierra Club is excited to bring you a presentation on Sáttítla Highlands National Monument, the newest National Monument in our area that was enacted by former President Joe Biden. The monument includes Medicine Lake and over 200,000 surrounding acres.

The program will be presented by the Mt. Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center (MSBEC) and will cover the history of the area and the struggle to get National Monument status as well as future management plans and how the public can become involved. This is an important biological area, source of pristine waters and ancestral land of the Pit River Tribe and important to other Native peoples. Speakers will include Nick Joslin, a geologist who will talk about the volcanic history and geology of the area, Michelle Berditshevsky, the founder of Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center who will talk about the long struggle to stop geothermal drilling to protect the Medicine Lake aquifer and obtain national monument status for the area, and Brandy McDaniels from the Pit River Nation who will give the background of her tribe's connection to the area and the long fight they led to protect the area. The speakers will also discuss the future of management plans for the area and how the public can become involved. There will be a question and answer session at the end.

This event will take place in the Shasta College Science Building Lecture Hall, Room 1632, on the north side of campus near the swimming pool. The Lecture Hall Entrance is on the east side of the building. Park in the north parking lots. Make sure to buy a \$2 parking pass at one of the yellow machines in the parking lot so you don't get a ticket. This event is free!

This should be a fascinating talk by those who are intimately knowledgeable about the area and the long battle to obtain National Monument status. Whether you are familiar with the area or not, this will be an important opportunity to learn the importance of protecting the area.



**Medicine Lake in Sáttítla
Highlands National
Monument**

Recap of our 10 Bridges Field Trip!



**Hiking participants
on the trip!
Photo by John
Sears**

**David Ledger
talking about
local plants
along the trail.
Photo by John
Sears**



**Looking out over
one of the bridges
along the trail!
Photo by John
Sears**

Recap of 10 Bridges Continued!

Clear weather and mild temperatures brought 20 participants to the 10 Bridges to the Salt Creek foot bridge field trip led by David Ledger on Sunday, January 24. For this field trip we concentrated on participants learning 10 common plants and birds found in the greater Redding area. Buckbrush, white-leaf manzanita, yerba santa, Mt. mahogany, blue oaks, interior live oak, knobcone pine, gray pine and ponderosa were found among others. Blooming plants included grand hound's tongue, gum weed, wild radish, and a few redbud.

The $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to the Sacramento River trail is primarily oak woodland on a wide trail with a slightly steep climb on the return trip. The Salt Creek trail is in a riparian area and follows a shaded north face where we found considerable goldback fern, maidenhair fern and a few liverworts. Combining birding with identifying plants was difficult, but we did see California Towhee, Berwick's wren, Red-tailed Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Oak titmouse, Western Scrub Jay, Common Raven, Turkey Vulture, House Finch, Wren-tit, Ruby crowned Kinglet, Dark-eyed Junco and Western Bluebird. Thanks to George Horn for leading the birding and to John Sears for taking many photographs.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the field trip, the camaraderie and the scenic creek views. This would be an excellent trail to walk in mid to late March, which should be near peak bloom for the area. We saw many other plants just waiting for warmer weather to break out in bloom. Thank you to all the participants who joined us!

Recap of MLK Day!



David Ledger and Amberly Clark at MLK booth.



We had a great time tabling at Sequoia Middle School for MLK day! Thank you to all who stopped by and said hi at our booth!

Upcoming Events!

Trail 58 Field Trip

Saturday, February 7, 9 am.

Iron Mountain Road, Keswick

This trail follows an old 1850's gold mining water ditch from Iron Mountain Road to Old Shasta roughly following Middle Creek with one foot bridge across a seasonal stream. This is an easy to moderate difficulty 3 ½ mile hike of mostly level terrain, but there is a steep section that does require some balance. The area was burned in the Carr Fire, but is recovering nicely and we should see early blooming wildflowers. This will be an easy time to learn to identify arroyo willows in winter. Some sections of the water ditch trail may have water in it and we will just walk on the bank.

We will meet at the trailhead on Iron Mountain Road just 1/4 mile off of Highway 299 west of Redding. Wear boots, dress in layers, bring water and a snack. For more information, contact walk leader David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com. We will have a list of plants on the trail for participants. CNPS is supporting this Sierra Club hike. All are welcome. Rain cancels, drizzle, bring umbrella.

Shasta Birding Society Field Trip

Saturday, Feb. 14th 9am

Turtle Bay, Redding

This is Shasta Birding Society's monthly second Saturday walk at Turtle Bay which will be led by Dan Scollon. This short walk lasts about one hour, but for those wishing to they can continue on with others around the Turtle Bay loop trail. Meet near the Sundial Bridge and then walk on the Turtle Bay Trail. All are welcome to attend this field trip and they do have extra binoculars.

Raptor Night!

Friday, Feb. 20th 6pm

Viva Downtown, Redding

100F Hall Upstairs

1492 California-Market Street

Marily Woodhouse is the director of Battle Creek Alliance and Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue in Manton. She will give us a PowerPoint presentation regarding her work, including rescuing and rehabilitating raptors and the threats to our local forests, in particular the Battle Creek watershed, due to cumulative impacts from the over-logging of industrial timberlands. This excellent presentation covers the rewards and tragedies of raptor rescue and rehabilitation and the myriad ways that humans have adversely affected raptors, from automobiles to fences to pesticides. Marily is one of the only licensed and permitted raptor rescue and rehabilitation experts in inland northern California. The meeting place will be in upstairs floor of the IOOF (Oddfellows) Building at 1492 Market Street, enter from the alley (California entrance) go up the stairs or take the elevator. To help us on ordering food, please RSVP, but not required. For more information, email dsledger49@gmail.com.

Free Pizza and drinks, meet new and old friends.



Raptor Night!



Friday, Feb. 20th at 6 pm
Viva Downtown Redding

Join us on Friday, Feb. 20th at Viva Downtown Redding at 6pm to hear a talk from Marily Woodhouse, director of Battle Creek Alliance and Defiance Canyon Raptor Rescue in Manton. Learn all about raptors and the rehabilitation efforts to keep these birds safe and protected. Food will be provided!

Scan here for more info
and to register!



www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/shasta

Swasey Recreation Area Trail

Monday, February 23, 9 am

For this field trip we will hike up a trail that leads to a pass that meets Whiskeytown NRA at the base of Mule Mountain. This is a moderate difficulty trail of about 5 miles with an elevation climb of 850 feet. Varied habitat which was burned moderately during the Carr Fire. This is a very beautiful trail with varied habitat the length of the trail. Creek levels will determine which trail we hike. This trail has uneven sections, so you might want to bring walking poles. Bring water, lunch, and dress in layers. Rain cancels, but intermittent sprinkles or drizzle, bring umbrella. For more information and exact meeting place, contact walk leader David Ledger at dsledger49@gmail.com.

Dye Creek Preserve Rim Trail

Weekend of March 28, 29 8 am

Near Los Molinos, CA

We have led field trips up the Dye Creek Canyon numerous times which is a remarkable place with unique geology and plants. This year the field trip will be on the Rim Trail above the canyon with views of the canyon and there should be many wildflowers on the walk.

This will be about a 4 mile hike, but the trail is undeveloped, so it does require people with good balance and ability to walk uneven terrain. Dye Creek is composed of 37,000 acres of wild land lightly grazed with cattle. The trip will be limited to 20 people, and these field trips are almost always filled up. Look for details in our March newsletter. For more information, email dsledger49@gmail.com and look for details in our March newsletter.

Clear Creek Gun Club and Erosion Controversy Article Correction



This photo of the unpermitted gun club property grading was taken by a hiker from the BLM property before the heavy December rain storm.

There has been a controversy over a property near Cloverdale Road and Clear Creek Road regarding some unpermitted grading and where the Clear Creek Gun Club is located which does not currently have a permit according to the Shasta County Planning Department.

In September 2025, Shasta County issued an administrative hearing decision and order finding that 14800 Modesta View LLC (location of the Clear Creek Gun Club), engaged in unpermitted grading beyond the scope of their 2019 permit.

In addition, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife filed 15 Fish and Game Code violations against the Clear Creek Gun Club owners alleging pollution of waterways and diversion or obstruction of a river or stream. A trial has not been held on the CDFW code violations and the next hearing is scheduled for July 27, 2026.

The property owners appealed the county's ruling on the grading issue and lost.

The Gun Club's property is west and above and upstream of the Horsetown Clear Creek Preserve and Clear Creek, where an important fisheries restoration project has been ongoing for more than 20 years.

CORRECTION: This article has been updated to remove a photo that was mistakenly placed with the original article in our previous newsletter. That photo was of a slump of a bank next to Clear Creek Road on Shasta County right of way; it was not on the property owned by the Clear Creek Gun Club, and we regret the error. There were several slumps of land below Clear Creek Road in the Shasta County right of way. A severe storm event in December apparently contributed to causing the sedimentation runoff from both the gun club and Shasta County property.

A reference to a rifle pointed to the Preserve property has also been removed, as the firearm in the picture mentioned in the previous version of this post was a shotgun and not a rifle.

Follow Us on Social Media!

We will be posting updates on Instagram and Facebook along with our website!



@sierraclub.shastagroup



www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61585275718153

<https://www.sierraclub.org/mother-lode/shasta>

Thank you for reading! Check out our website for a calendar list of events, and if you want to become a regular volunteer or have ideas for types of outings you want to see happen, we would love to have your help! Email us at sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com and we will get back to you!

To unsubscribe from future emails please email sierraclub.shasta@gmail.com